

Message Text

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R 312324Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC FOR POLAD

S E C R E T STATE 112184

FOL STATE 112184 SENT ACTION BANGKOK CANBERRA WELLINGTON INFO
LONDON MANILA MAY 29 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 112184

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: RTG STATEMENT AND SEATO BUDGET PROPOSALS

REF: BANGKOK 8618, STATE 81415, BANGKOK 8534

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FERNANDEZ CALLED ON DEPUTY ASST.
SECRETARY HUMMEL TUESDAY AFTERNOON, EXPLAINING HE WAS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO INQUIRE ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE THAILAND STATE-
MENT AT MAY 24 PWG MEETING AND ABOUT US ATTITUDE ON SEATO
BUDGET.

2. HUMMEL PARAPHRASED KEY PORTIONS BANGKOK 8618, INCLUDING
POINTS IN PARA 6 CONCERNING US VIEW OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE
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OF SEATO AND MANILA PACT. FERNANDEZ HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF

THAI DISCLAIMERS OF REMARKS AT PWG SESSION AND STATED HE WOULD INFORM CANBERRA.

3. WITH REGARD TO SEATO BUDGET, FERNANDEZ NOTED THAT SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSED FIGURE OF \$1.46 MILLION WOULD BE REDUCED TO \$1.09 MILLION ON BASIS OF US FORMULA AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND INSISTENCE ON NOT INCREASING LEVEL OF THEIR PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTION. HUMMEL RESPONDED THAT US POSITION IS THAT SEATO BUDGET WAS ALREADY CLOSE TO BARE BONES AND WE DID NOT WANT IT REDUCED PRECIPITATELY. AT THE

SAME TIME, WE WERE COMMITTED TO THE SENATE TO MAINTAIN OUR FY 75 CONTRIBUTION AT APPROXIMATELY THE PREVIOUS LEVEL. ACCORDING TO FERNANDEZ GOA HAS NOT DECIDED DEFINITELY THE AMOUNT OF ITS SEATO BUDGET, DOES NOT WANT TO EXCEED ITS QUOTE EQUITABLE SHARE UNQUOTE, BUT IS NOT CHALLENGING MERITS OF SEATO ORGANIZATION OR MANILA PACT, NOR INTERESTED IN UNDERCUTTING THEM IN ANY WAY.

4. NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY OFFICIAL (POWLES) HAS MADE APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON EA/RA (NETHERCUT, ISOM) ON THURSDAY CONCERNING THAI STATEMENT; AND DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE SAME LINE AS ABOVE.

5. FOR BANGKOK: EMBASSY ALSO AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON ABOVE COMMENTS BY HUMMEL AS WELL AS CONTENT BANGKOK 8618 IN DISCUSSING RTG STATEMENT WITH OTHER COUNCIL REPS. DEPARTMENT CONFUSED BY MATHEMATICS OF SEATO FY75 BUDGET FORMULATION. BANGKOK 5775 INDICATED THAT IF ALL MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED NO MORE FUNDS IN FY75 THAN FOR PRESENT FISCAL YEAR, THE BUDGET WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE SEATO SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED \$1.46 TO \$1.31 MILLION. BANGKOK 8618 INDICATES FURTHER SLIPPAGE TO \$1.1 MILLION IF MEMBERS HOLD TO FY 74 CONTRIBUTION LEVEL. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF HOW NEW ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGES COINCIDE WITH OLD CONTRIBUTION LEVELS TO REACH \$1.1 MILLION. WE AGREE THAT THIS NEW FIGURE REPRESENTS TOO DRASTIC A BUDGET CUT FOR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANIZATION. IF EMBASSY NEEDS FLEXIBILITY IN GAIN-SECRET

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ING MEMBER COUNTRY AGREEMENT TO PUT THE FY 75 BUDGET BACK TO THE \$1.3 MILLION LEVEL, WHICH APPEARS A REASONABLE BUDGET TARGET, WE SUGGEST THAT AN INFLATION FACTOR BE WORKED INTO MEMBER COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS, I.E., FY 74 CONTRIBUTION PLUS THE RATE OF CURRENT INFLATION IN BANGKOK.

6. FOR CANBERRA, WELLINGTON: EMBASSIES SHOULD SEEK

APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE US POSITION AND
EXPRESS HOPE THAT GNZ AND GOA WILL BE WILLING TO ADJUST
THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO PERMIT SEATO BUDGET AT APPROXIMATE-
LY \$1.3 MILLION LEVEL. BROWN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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